

Serial No. 10/801,675
Docket No. 73478/03

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REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 5 is canceled.

It is noted that Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1-4, 9-12, 17, 19, and 20 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 6-8, 13-16, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and have accordingly rewritten them to permit all remaining claims to pass to allowance.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,844,854 B2). Cancellation of this claim renders this rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-4 and 6-20, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

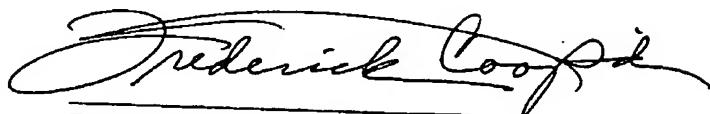
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 11/22/05

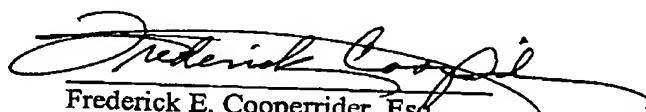


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment by facsimile with the Automated Patent and Trademark Assignment System of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at fax number (571) 273-8300 this the 22nd day of November 2005.



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